Social Responsibilities of Public Schools

* 577. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to force public schools in the country to be strict to the Supreme Court guidelines for discharging their social responsibilities, without commercialising the education;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure compliance of the guidelines; and

(d) what action would be taken against the public schools which do not follow the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any Supreme Court guidelines in respect of Public Schools for discharging their social responsibilities without commercialisation of education. However, Government is making efforts in this direction.

Cyclone shelter in Orissa

* 578. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a super cyclone had swept across fourteen more prosperous districts of Orissa in 1999, when the turbulent storm killed over ten thousand people and three lakh cattle, besides damaging twenty-one lakh hectares of crops and felling about nine crore trees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the Central Government nor the Orissa Government added a single cyclone shelter to the existing ones before the sea storm, and the post disaster coordination work was being done by a UN agency; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. This is the approximate cumulative damage caused by the two cyclones of October, 1999, including the Super cyclone.

(b) and (c) According to the State Government, construction of 23 cyclone shelters was completed before the occurrence of the two cyclones. Another 24 such shelters are nearing completion with funding from Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The post disaster coordination work is being carried out by the State Government through the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority and other agencies with the assistance and cooperation of the Central Government and not by any UN agency.

Use of Drugs by Sportspersons in NIS

* 579. SHRI KHAGEN DAS :

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 28th and 30th July, 2001, captioned, "Dope available right under NIS nose" and "Tight-lipped official open can of doping worms". respectively;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that rampant use of drugs by sportsmen at National Institute of Sports and Health Centre is taking place in connivance with senior coaches and staff members ;

(c) if so, what are Government's findings ; and

(d) how do Government propose to curb/check the use of drugs, stating the steps being taken to check undesired activities of athletes, coaches, employees and officials of Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) With a view to curb the use of drugs by athletes, Government has requested all National Sports Federations to conduct dope test as per norms laid down by the International Federations of concerned disciplines. They have also been asked to take appropriate action against players found positive for banned drugs and substances.

The Government has asked the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to step up alertness and internal vigil against use of banned drugs at all sports and training facilities run by SAI & to step up education and awareness of athletes and coaches, and sports scientists and doctors.